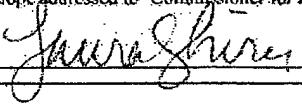


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on the date shown below.

Date: December 7, 2005

Signature: 

(Laura Shires)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/798,018

Confirmation No.: 8804

Filing Date: March 11, 2004

Inventor(s): Michael D. LAUFER et al.

Title: SURGICAL FASTENING SYSTEM

Examiner: G. Dawson

Group Art Unit: 3731

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patent
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated August 23, 2005 for which a response was due on November 23, 2005. Applicant submits a request for one-month extension of time herewith. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendment to the Drawings begin on page 8 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.